

The Outdoor Wire founder and noted journalist Jim Shepherd gets Wade Bourne Lifetime Achievement Award



Jim Shepherd, founder of The Outdoor Wire, is honored with Wade Lifetime Achievement Award. (Photo/courtesy: Outdoor Wire)

Jim Shepherd wrote his first front page story in 1973. In the 50 years since, he’s covered everything from local news to the United States Supreme Court. Lots of those reports have come in the 23 years since he began

In a career that spans 50+ years, Shepherd has many national and international awards in radio, television and cable news. He has received Emmy awards, Cable ACE Awards, Murrow Awards, and been named golf reporter of the year by the National Golf Reporters Association.

The Outdoor Wire with “forty three potential subscribers and a hunch the outdoors needed something like a daily newspaper.” Today, that idea has grown into The Outdoor Wire Digital Network, ten distinct services covering virtually every area of the outdoors.

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After his work covering the Second Amendment and the United States Supreme Court’s landmark Heller decision, the Second Amendment Foundation named him their first Global Defender

of Second Amendment Rights. Last year, he was named the SAF’s 2022 Journalist of the Year for his “extraordinary dedication to preservation of Second Amendment rights, and whose words have helped preserve the freedoms protected by the United States Constitution.”

The Wade Bourne Lifetime Achievement Award is named for famed outdoor writer and TV personality Wade Bourne, a combat veteran who over a long career became one of the nation’s best-known voices for hunting, fishing and conservation.

Other inductees at this year’s event were: Jim Ronquest, Co-Host and Producer of RNT-V and a World Champion Duck Caller; Kathy Fennel, Executive Vice-President and General Manager of Major League Fishing; Tim Huffman, renowned writer and photographer, Tim is currently senior writer for CrappieNow; Gail Camp, long-time active female waterfowl hunter and a two-time Women’s World Championship Caller winner; Bill Miller, professional outdoor writer, former television personality, and owner of Bill Miller Outdoors; Phillip Vanderpool, well known hunter and host & owner of thevirtuetv; Bob Redfern, long-time outdoor TV personality on Bob Redfern’s Outdoor Magazine and retired US Army Infantry Lieutenant Colonel; Kevin VanDam, “KVD” is a professional bass fisherman and the all-time money winner in professional bass fishing.

Learn more about Legends of the Outdoors Hall of Fame here: <http://www.legendsoftheoutdoors.com>.

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ticket to the Boise State home game, and so on.

The Win Together ticket offer can be purchased by calling the Memphis Ticket office at 901-678-2331. The offer is only available leading up to the Bethune-Cookman game. One home loss ends the Win Together ticket offer.

Yamaha Motor Corp., U.S.A. purchases Fort George Island Marina in Duval County, FL

JACKSONVILLE, Fla.--(BUSINESS WIRE)-- Yamaha Motor Corporation, U.S.A. has purchased Fort George Island Marina in Duval County, Florida, with the intention of converting the existing facility into the Yamaha Offshore Endurance Center (YOEC), which will serve as a testing center for Yamaha Marine products including outboards, sport boats and WaveRunners. The new YOEC includes a 36,500-square-foot warehouse and marina building as well as a 7,200 square foot office and event space.

“The YOEC compliments our test centers in Alabama and Kennesaw while adding greater capacity and capability. It also supports Yamaha Marine global testing plans by expanding opportunities to develop products,” said Ben Speciale, President, Yamaha U.S. Marine Business Unit.

“The environment provided by this location will allow us to focus on durability and reliability testing for larger engines, systems and boat hull designs in an offshore environment. It will also include an immersive team center designed to inspire future engineering talent.”

Earlier this year, Yamaha completed the expansion of its freshwater test facility in Bridgeport, Alabama, adding 5,900 square feet of office space and 8,000 square feet of labs and storage. In addition, Yamaha recently finalized the construction of a new Marine Innovation Center in Kennesaw, Georgia, a 75,280 square foot facility which now houses the Yamaha Marine Connected Division as well as Yamaha U.S. Marine Development, Yamaha Marine Product Management and Yamaha Marine Technical Marketing.

Joey Cifuentes III secures Dakota Lithium 2023 Bassmaster Rookie of the Year title

CLAYTON, N.Y. August 27, 2023— Despite some anxious moments on the final day of the Bassmaster Elite Series season, “The Cowboy” rode off into the sunset with some major new hardware to admire.

With a total of 698 points, Joey Cifuentes III secured the Dakota Lithium Bassmaster Rookie of the Year title, holding off a hard-charging Kyoya Fujita for the prestigious honor.

Not only did Cifuentes earn the \$10,000 top prize, he finished fifth in the Progressive Insurance Bassmaster Angler of the Year standings and will compete in his first Academy Sports + Outdoors Bassmaster Classic presented by Toyota in Tulsa next March.

“It was one of my goals coming into this year,” Cifuentes said. “It is a really tough thing to do, but I am really proud of myself. I fished really well and made the right decisions. It feels really good.”

The Clinton, Ark., pro entered the Minn Kota Bassmaster Elite at St. Lawrence River with a 15-point lead over Fujita, who has won four AOY titles in his home country of Japan. That lead dwindled as the event progressed and Fujita qualified for Championship Sunday.

Cifuentes, who finished 17th, had to watch the final day from the sidelines but knew Fujita would have to win it all to unseat him as ROY.

“I watched it a little bit. I wasn’t really nervous. I knew he had to have 27 or 28 pounds, something really big, to win,” Cifuentes said. “The kid is phenomenal. Who knows what he is going to do in the future as well as the other anglers in the class. I can’t believe I pulled it off.”



Joey Cifuentes III of Clinton, Ark., has won the 2023 Dakota Lithium Bassmaster Rookie of the Year points race. (Photo by Seigo Saito/B.A.S.S.)

The 2023 rookie class was one of the most impressive in recent memory. Cifuentes won two Elite Series events, while Fujita and Will Davis Jr. each won one. In total, six rookies will fish in the 2024 Classic at Grand Lake O’ the Cherokees with the potential for a seventh, depending on how the rest of the St. Croix Bassmaster Opens season plays out.

Trusting his instincts and good decision making carried Cifuentes, a former FLW Tour pro, throughout the year. Fear did not factor into the equation.

“I wasn’t afraid to fail and trusted my instincts,” he said. “That is how guys win Angler of the Year and Rookie of the Year. I fished to win several tournaments and succeed.”

Cifuentes showed he would be a player for both ROY and AOY

early on, finishing 19th at the season opener on Lake Okeechobee before notching his first Elite Series victory at Lake Seminole. “That boosted my confidence, which was huge,” he said. “You go into the Elite Series not knowing what to expect. I didn’t know if I could compete with these guys. I made a Top 20 at Okeechobee and thought I could do this, and then I won. It takes a lot of weight off your shoulders.”

Although he stumbled during the Carolina swing with a 92nd-place finish at Murray and a 58th at Santee Cooper, Cifuentes notched back-to-back Top 30s at Lay Lake and the Sabine River to wrap up the Southern schedule.

“I just tried to put everything in the past,” Cifuentes said. “If there was one place I felt like I didn’t have a lot of confidence, it

was those two tournaments. I’ve never done well at Murray for some reason, and I had never been to Santee Cooper. You have to forget about it and move on to the next one. I just kind of rolled with it and tried to bounce back and stay positive.”

Cifuentes opened the Northern swing with an impressive victory at Lake St. Clair by fishing a largely unpressured area in Canadian waters. On the final day, Cifuentes watched as a 5-pound smallmouth he hooked jumped in his boat unassisted and knew at that moment the stars had aligned.

“I’ve never had a fish jump in the boat like that. That moment right there was pretty special,” he said.

Memphis Hustle open player tryouts set for September 16 at Christian Brothers University



MEMPHIS, Tenn. – The Memphis Hustle, the NBA G League affiliate of the Memphis Grizzlies, will hold its fifth annual open player tryouts for the upcoming 2023-24 season on Saturday, Sept. 16, from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Canale Arena at Christian Brothers University (2440 Central Ave, Memphis, TN 38104). Doors will open to participants at 8:45 a.m. This event is closed to the public.

Players who participate in the open tryouts will be observed and evaluated by members of the

Memphis Hustle and Memphis Grizzlies Basketball Operations staffs. All applicants must be eligible to play in the NBA G League per the qualifications listed online and complete the required paperwork. Detailed infor-

mation about the tryouts, registration forms and payment options and instructions can be found here.

For advance registrations completed online prior to the registration deadline, the fee is \$200. The fee increases to \$250 for walk-up registrations. Pre-registration will close at 5 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 14. Pre-registration will be capped at 60 participants, so those who plan to pre-register are encouraged to do so as soon as possible. Those wishing to do

walk-up registration must pay with a credit or debit card. Family members and guests are not allowed at the tryout – only participants themselves. Additionally, all participants will receive a free T-shirt with registration. All registrations are non-refundable.

For more information on the Memphis Hustle, visit memphishustle.com, follow the team on Twitter/X and Instagram (@MemphisHustle) or like Memphis Hustle on Facebook

NFL live college football games from sports page 1

and sideline reporter Sherree Burruss on the call. Both school bands – the Morehouse College House of Funk Marching Band and the Virginia Union University Ambassadors of Sound Marching Band – will be shown live at halftime.

This fall, NFL Network will broadcast 10 games from the Sun Belt, Mid-American and American Athletic conferences. Provided below is the confirmed broadcast schedule for September:

Saturday, September 2 at 7:00 PM ET – Army vs. Louisiana-Monroe

Saturday, September 9 at 7:00 PM ET – Houston vs. Rice

Saturday, September 16 at 7:00 PM ET – James Madison vs. Troy

The remainder of the schedule will be announced throughout the season.

Additionally, NFL Network will broadcast the East-West Shrine Bowl (February 1, 2024 from the Ford Center at The Star in Frisco, TX), the Reese's Senior Bowl (February 3, 2024 from Hancock Whitney Stadium in Mobile, AL) and the Allstate HBCU Legacy Bowl (February 24, 2024 from Tulane Stadium in New Orleans, LA).

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SHOTGUN START 1:00 p.m.

Lunch and Snacks provided at the Clubhouse

Awards presentation

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